

Your Priest's Perspective

The Biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann has written a poem called *Easter Us*, in which the word *Easter* is a verb:

*You defeater of death, whose power could not hold you,
Come in your Easter,
Come in your sweeping victory,
Come in your glorious new life.*

*Easter us--
salve wounds,
break injustice,
bring peace,
guarantee neighbor,
Easter us in joy and strength.*

It is not often that a single issue of *Pious Press* covers the period from Palm Sunday through Pentecost: the holiest time of the Christian year. It is a time of profound renewal, if we will allow it to be. As we watch the brown ground turn green, tree branches become veiled with leaves, and our gardens take on the colors of early blossoms, we can open our own hearts to the same mysterious and invisible new life in our own souls. We can nourish dreams that have haunted us since we were young; we can renew relationships that we have neglected; we can do some things for the first time; we can finally discard the clutter that blocks our growing; we can recognize what might belong in our spiritual compost pile.

For in these wonderful days God *Easters* us relentlessly. In the humiliating walk to Calvary, in the awe of the empty tomb, in the disorienting joy of the resurrection appearances, and in the liberating assurance of Pentecost, God works the soil of our souls so that our own unique beauty will burst forth as if for the first time. God *Easters* us to heal us, strengthen us, and connect us to our neighbors.

May your walk toward Easter, and your walk in Eastertide, be guided by the Holy Spirit whose fullness will be celebrated at Pentecost. May God *Easter* you in exuberant peace.

Judith+

Dates to remember



April Food collection – Peanut Butter & Jelly

April 5 – 8:45am - Palm Sunday Service

April 6 - 6:30pm - Evensong @ St John's

April 7 - 6pm - Stations of the Cross

April 8 - 6:30pm Tenebrae @ St John's

April 9 - 6pm -Agape Meal @ St Andrew's

April 9 - 8pm - Compline & Stripping of Altar @ St John's

April 9 - 9pm - 8am Overnight Vigil @ St John's in Garden

April 10 - 8am - Morning Prayer @ St John's

April 10 - 11am - Stations of the Cross @ St John's

April 10 - 7pm - Fools for Christ @ St Andrew's

April 11 - 10am - Blessing of Food for Easter & Egg Hunt

April 19 - Parish "Town Meeting" after service

April 20 - 7pm - Covenant Team meeting @ St Andrew's

April 22 - 7pm - "The Anglican Tradition" @ St Andrew's

April 26 - 12 - 4pm – UNYTS Blood Drive

April 27 - 7pm - Niagara Deanery Council @ St Andrew's

April 29 - 7pm - "The Episcopal Church" @ St Andrew's

May Food collection – Peanut Butter & Jelly

May 1- 9-4 - Rummage Sale

May 2 - 9-noon - Rummage Sale

May 3 - 10:30am - Bishop's Visitation & Confirmation @ St Andrew's

May 10 - UTO Ingathering

May 10 - Mother's Day Meal

May 13 - Pious Press Deadline

May 13 - 6:30pm Vestry

May 31 - **Pentecost - Wear Red**

May 31 - 4pm - EFM Graduation @ St Matthais', East Aurora

February Finances: Total Offerings 3615.80; Total Expenses 3296.57; Not paid:

\$1860.25 - Diocesan pledge & acolyte fund from 2008

Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter at St. John's & St. Andrew's

April 5 Palm Sunday

8:45 a.m - Service of Holy Eucharist with Blessing of the Palms at St. John's
noon Community Easter Egg Hunt & ECS Basket Auction at St. Andrew's

April 6 10am. Lenten Reflection Group at St. Andrew's

6:30pm Evensong at St. John's

April 7 6pm Stations of the Cross at St. John's

April 8 6:30pm Service of Tenebrae at St. John's

April 9 Maundy Thursday

6pm Agape Meal at St. Andrew's & Stripping of the Altar

8pm Service of Compline & Stripping of the Altar

9pm – 8am Overnight Vigil – Garden of Repose at St. John's

April 10 Good Friday

8am Morning Prayer at St John's

11am Stations of the Cross at St John's

7pm Fools for Christ: Passion Liturgy at St. Andrew's

April 11 10am Blessing of Easter Foods at St. John's & Easter Egg Hunt

7pm Easter Vigil at First English Lutheran Church Lockport

April 12 Easter Sunday

9am Festival Eucharist at St. John's

10:45am Festival Eucharist at St. Andrew's

St John's member wins third prize for Delphi documentary

Michael Pyskaty, 11, is not your average middle schooler.

The Starpoint 6th grader was one of eight middle schoolers from around the country to win a \$750 third prize in C-SPANs "StudentCam" competition. Michael's video, "The Auto Industry's Ripple Effect", will air April 16. He interviewed Lockport Mayor Michael Tucker, who used to work at auto parts maker Delphi in Lockport; State Sen. George Maziarz, R-Newfane, and Starpoint Superintendent Douglas Whelan for his video.

NeXt: Why did you enter the contest?

Michael: A teacher at my school named Mrs. Flynn showed me the page and I was interested because I like politics and I like to get into that kind of stuff. So I saw that and I thought "that's really cool, I want to do it!"

NeXt: How did you do your research for the video?

Michael: Actually my mom told me that Mayor Tucker used to work at the Delphi plant so I figured he would be a good person to interview. As for Senator Maziarz, I wanted to know how the state was helping, and for Dr. Whelan, I wanted to know if the school had been impacted at all.

NeXt: Do you have your own movie camera and where did you film your documentary?

Michael: I borrowed the school's camera. I filmed the interviews in their offices and then I cut some of the car footage from outside my house and some in front of Delphi.

NeXt: Do you have any specific plans about how you will spend the money you won?

Michael: I was thinking about buying a laptop computer.

NeXt: What is your No. 1 concern about the car companies' crisis?

Michael: We live down the street from Delphi, and my concern is that they will shut down that plant and then there's going to be 2,000 people in Niagara County without a job. Also, the auto industry is doing so bad I'm afraid that it's just going to completely collapse at the rate that they're going. There would be a tremendous amount of people out of work. The auto industry employs a crazy amount of people!

NeXt: Have you been personally affected by the decline of Delphi?

Michael: Our family runs a little fruit stand outside during the summer and when the shifts from Delphi let out, the people come and buy some produce. We've been seeing less customers from Delphi because between 1970 and now, they have [cut the workforce by] almost 14,000 workers. So we've been seeing less Delphi workers coming to our stand

NeXt: If you were president, what would you do right now to help the economy?

Michael: I would probably encourage people to buy American-made cars, not foreign cars, because if they're going out and buying Toyota or a Hyundai, I'm not saying there's anything wrong with those cars, they're just foreign and they're not supporting American jobs.

NeXt: Do you have any plans for your future that involve the economy or anything of that sort

Michael: Politics. Senator really, that's what I'm aiming for.

By EMILY SPINA *NeXt* Correspondent

Vestry Highlights

March 11, 2009

Resolved

- ✓ Lois Bateman will take 2 QuickBooks Seminars in April to improve efficiency and accuracy of keeping our financial records at a cost to the church of \$140.
- ✓ St. John's will join other churches in the Deanery to contribute \$375 toward the salary of the Deanery Youth Missioner (September 2009-June 2010).
- ✓ Judith+ will arrange for the Fire Extinguishers to be checked

Discussion

- ✓ We had a lengthy discussion of whether to have an additional fundraiser to meet our 2009 budget and what that fundraiser might be. We will look into the feasibility of having a breakfast and basket auction during the soccer tournament (July 11-12 or 17-18). Another possibility would be a chowder/soup sale.
- ✓ Hy-Tech Cement was called to advise us on the condition of the church foundation. We were told to wait until after the spring thaw, when we will be able to see beyond the stairs and assess if more extensive repairs will be necessary.
- ✓ Janet Hoffman will look into scheduling a UNYTS Blood Drive at St. John's on Sunday April 26th.
- ✓ The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper raised \$242 for Episcopal Community Services.
- ✓ John McNally, a member of St. Andrew's, will do much of the work necessary to prepare for the schoolroom renovation at no charge to St. John's.

What's working and what's not?

- ✓ The congregation found the service of Morning Prayer on March 1st to be meaningful, but several people have requested that we sing the Canticles at future services.

Hippos, Lightbulbs, & A Seminarian's 'To Do' List

Thought you might like to see what kinds of things are on this seminarian's 'To Do' List:

1. Learn how to spell Philippians (1 L? 2 Ps?)
2. Buy more Diet Coke (again)
3. Make a better cartoon for Hippolytus' *Apostolic Tradition*

I am preparing for mid-terms here at General Theological Seminary, but what goes on around, through, over and under the academics is the real learning experience. My recent struggles involve figuring out how to keep from losing myself to the demands of the workload, while finding my spirituality asserting itself more frequently, unexpectedly, and boldly. In all honesty, it is the spiritual discovery that is most risky and frightening about this seminary experience. I feel like I am changing so dramatically, so quickly; I sometimes wonder if anyone will recognize me when I emerge? Or will I recognize myself?

I won't ever remember how many Ls and Ps are in Philippians (too much tournament Scrabble where everything has 3 alternate spellings). I will always have Diet Coke on my shopping list, though I promised myself I'd go cold turkey. And I need to accept the fact that although my mnemonic cartoon device for remembering Bishop Hippolytus of Rome (a hippo with a lightbulb-get it?) doesn't meet my high artistic standards, it will have to be good enough because I have 20 more Early Christian theologians left on my study guide, and the exam is 3 days away.

My family has been so good to me, and my friends so supportive; I am truly blessed to be in your thoughts and prayers. Know that you are in mine as well.

Peace, Claudia

Lessons

Sunday	First Lesson	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
April 5 Palm Sunday				
April 12 Easter Sunday	Isaiah 25:6-9	118:1-2,14-24	Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18
April 19 Easter 2	Acts 4:32-35	133	1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31
April 26 Easter 3	Acts 3:12-19	4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
May 3 Easter 4	Acts 4:5-12	23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
May 10 Mother's Day	Acts 8:26-40	22:25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8
May 17 Easter 6	Acts 10:44-48	98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
May 24 Easter 7	Acts 1:15-17,21-26	1	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
May 31 Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21	104:24-34,35b	Romans 8:22-27	John 15:26-27

Reader Schedule

Service Date	Lector	Prayers of the People	Lay Reader	Chalice	Crusifer	C 1 st Acolyte	2 nd Acolyte
PALM Sunday SERVICE BEGINS AT 8:45am							
April 5 Palm Sunday	Janet Hoffman	Robyn Krueger	Sharon Rhodes	Mike Kerwin	Jocie Lyons	Jared Carney	Kyle Lyons
April 12 Easter Sunday	Robyn Krueger	Allison Carter	Keith Rhodes	Gail Freischlag	All Acolytes		
April 19 Easter 2	Allison Carter	Jacque Rodgers	Janet Hoffman	Sharon Rhodes	Nick Failla	Brian Kerwin	Michael Pyskaty
April 26 Easter 3	Jacque Rodgers	Sharon Rhodes	Allison Carter	Robin Schulmeister	Nick Failla	Jared Carney	Matthew Pyskaty
May 3 Easter 4	Tom Sharpe	Robyn Krueger	Jacque Rodgers	Allison Carter	Jocie Lyons	Kyle Lyons	Michael Pyskaty
May 10 Mother's Day	Justin Naylor	Allison Carter	Sharon Rhodes	Keith Rhodes	Jocie Lyons	Michael Pyskaty	Kyle Lyons
May 17 Easter 6	Janet Hoffman	Jacque Rodgers	Keith Rhodes	Mike Kerwin	John Carney, III	Jared Carney	Brian Kerwin
May 24 Easter 7	Robyn Krueger	Sharon Rhodes	Allison Carter	Gail Freischlag	John Carney, III	Matthew Pyskaty	Jared Carney
May 31 Easter 8	Allison Carter	Robyn Krueger	Janet Hoffman	Sharon Rhodes	Nick Failla	Brian Kerwin	Matthew Pyskaty

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment, please find a replacement, or contact Pastor Lee! Thank you!

WE ARE TRUSTEES

We are trustees of what God has put into our care and keeping and we are responsible to God for the use that we make of His gifts. The right use is what we mean by the term Christian Stewardship.

From the Bench Z y Z y Z

During the season of Lent we have been using one hymn as our sequence hymn. We have been singing it twice. Once before and again, after the gospel reading appointed for the day. It actually is a canon and I first heard it two years ago at the Seder Meal I attended at St. Andrew's, Burt. I found it to be a haunting melody that I find myself humming unconsciously quite frequently.

While at the D - House for a meeting, I took the time to look up the hymn (# 715) in the books they have about the history of the hymns in our hymnal. Here is what I found out.

'When Jesus Wept' was written by William Billings an American composer. The text and music first appeared in his 'The New England Psalm Singer' published in Boston, MA in 1770. The tune (unnamed in our hymnal) is known as Emmaus and is attributed to P.M. This person was later identified as Perez Morton, a member of the Harvard Class of 1771. The scriptural reference alluded to in the song is John 11:35.

The music is a four part canon and so far we have been able to sing it in two parts. An interesting aside to this history is the fact that the frontispiece of this Psalm Book was engraved by Paul Revere.

Keep Singing!

Lois

Outreach - Community Missions

We are always in need of soaps, shampoo, deodorant, Kleenex, combs and razors. The travel size is just right for including in the bags. You may put your donations in the basket at the back of the sanctuary or hand them to one of us.

We create personal hygiene kits for the Mission which are given to those people who arrive there with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

A reminder to every member of the parish that food for an Easter Dinner would be especially welcome. Please put these non-perishable donations in the basket at the back of the Church or in the entry to the parish hall.

Thank you to all who donate. These donations are always gratefully received.

Millie High
Jean Reid
Mary Gamble

Spring Rummage Sale

Time for our Spring Rummage Sale is getting very close. We Must have more help for this event to continue happening. It takes two days to set it up and two days for the event itself including cleaning up after. There is plenty of time from Wednesday through Saturday for several people to help out for a bit. This is a parish event and there are jobs for each of us. There will be a sign-up sheet with times that you can select.

This sale provides a service to the community by helping us get our closets, etc cleaned and by giving others a chance to purchase items at a very reasonable price. Clean your closets, cupboards, etc and bring all the Clean items in good condition to St John's during April.

Altar Schedule April – June 2009

DATE	DAY	TIME	SERVICE	COLOR	MEMBER
April 5	PALM SUNDAY	9:00am	Eucharist	Red	Allison Carter
April 6	Holy Week Service	6:00pm		Red	Allison Carter
April 7	Holy Week Service	6:00pm		Red	Allison Carter
April 8	Holy Week Service	6:00pm		Red	Allison Carter
April 9	Maundy Thursday	7:30pm	Compline	Red	Allison Carter
April 12	EASTER SUNDAY	9:00am	Eucharist	White	Gail Freischlag
April 16	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	Gail Freischlag
April 19	2 nd Sunday of Easter	9:00am	Eucharist	White	Millie High
April 23	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White R Veil	Millie High
April 26	3 rd Sunday of Easter	9:00am	Eucharist	White	Jean Reid
April 30	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	Jean Reid
May 3	4 th Sunday of Easter	9:00am	Eucharist	White	Marcia Sabey
May 7	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	Marcia Sabey
May 10	5 th Sunday of Easter	9:00am	Eucharist	White	Lois Bateman
May 14	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	Lois Bateman
May 17	6 th Sunday of Easter	9:00am	Eucharist	White	Allison Carter
May 21	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am Ascension Day	Eucharist	White	Allison Carter
May 24	7 th Sunday of Easter	9:00am	Eucharist	White	Gail Freischlag
May 28	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White Green Veil	Gail Freischlag
May 31	PENTECOST	9:00am	Eucharist	Red	Millie High
June 4	Anointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	Millie High

Lord of mystery, let us feel *your* presence at the very heart of life, and seek and find you in the depths of everyday things. *Louis Espinal*